

## NCMPMS Mock Report for Public Access

*Note: The purpose of this mock report is to provide an overview of how the data would be presented and the general story that could be told about the effectiveness of the NCMP using contextual and performance measures. All numbers and examples are made up. Not all contextual and performance measures are included in this mock report.*

**Goal of the CZMA:** Provide public access for recreational purposes.

**Background:** Many organizations contribute to public access in the coastal areas of the U.S. These include federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, state agencies such as Departments of Parks and Recreation and Coastal Zone Management Programs, and local agencies such as County or Municipal Parks. Working together, these organizations provide valuable access to the coast, allowing the public to fish, boat, swim, etc....

**Importance of coastal public access:** recreational value – number of boats registered, average number of people visiting beaches, etc.; economic value - dollars spent/year on recreation, etc.

**External pressures:** From 2005-2007, the population in coastal counties increased by 34%. This increase in population increases the demand for sites to access coastal areas (CONTEXTUAL PRESSURE INDICATOR – percent increase in population growth of coastal counties). In addition to population growth, development trends often reduce the land available for new access areas or hinders use of existing access sites (CONTEXTUAL PRESSURE INDICATOR – percent land use change) (GRAPH OVER TIME).

**Current status:** Approximately 20,000 public access sites (CONTEXTUAL STATUS INDICATOR- number of coastal sites open for public access, by category) are currently available in coastal areas of the U.S. This includes 10,000 beach and shoreline access sites, 5,000 recreational boat access sites, and 5,000 other natural/cultural resource access sites.

**Coastal management program emphasis on coastal public access:** Twenty-one of the thirty-four coastal management programs rank public access as a priority focus for program activities. These coastal management programs work in various ways to promote more and better public access to coastal areas, depending on the state's existing resources and needs. While some programs partner with other agencies and non-profits to acquire access sites in high use or high need areas of the coasts, others work to enhance existing access sites through the addition of parking lots, signage, and such amenities as bathrooms.

**CZM Funding:** From 2005-2007, coastal management programs spent a total of \$465,000 of federal and state CZMA funds nationally to provide for more and/or better public access to coastal areas (PM FUNDING – number of federal and state-match CZMA dollars spent on activities that provide or enhance access to the coast). This funding amount remained fairly constant over the three years (GRAPH OVER TIME). These federal funds leveraged another \$546,000 in other investments (PM FUNDING – number of dollars leveraged for coastal access activities using CZMA funds) for public access sites and enhancements.

**CZM Activities:** Seven coastal management programs have completed assessments of public access needs in their states, up from 0 in 2005 (PM PROCESSES - number of approved CZM programs that have a process to periodically assess the public access for increased and/or improved

public access sites within the coastal zone). These assessments suggest that in the seven states, a total of 20 additional access sites and enhancements at 50 existing sites are needed to meet public need.

**CZM Outputs:** Supported at least partially by federal CZMA funds and state match, 40 new access sites have been acquired and 180 existing sites have undergone enhancements from 2005-2007 (GRAPH OVER TIME). The 40 access sites include 20 recreational boat access sites, 15 beach or shoreline access sites, and 5 other natural or cultural access sites. (PM OUPUTS - number of new sites that provide access to the coast, by category; number of existing public access sites that have been enhanced, by category). While new development in the coastal zone sometimes limits or prevents use of existing access sites, in the last three years, 123 existing access sites were kept open for public use through permitting requirements (PM OUTPUTS – number of sites where public access is protected or maintained through permitting).

**CZM Outcomes:** Over the past three years, availability of public access sites has increased by 2.5%, up to 20,000 in 2007 from 19,500 in 2005 (PM OUTCOMES – percent change in coastal sites open for public access) (GRAPH OVER TIME). The creation of new or enhancement of existing access sites should increase the percentage of the public that feels they have adequate access to the coast for recreational use. To survey for public satisfaction would be an intensive task and currently is not within the ability of the national CZM program. However, South Carolina recently completed a survey of 5,000 people living in coastal counties. Eighty-two percent of the surveyed population reported that they had at least adequate access to the coast. (PM OUTCOMES – percent of public that feel they have adequate access to the coast for recreation purposes).

**Connections:** While public access is an important use of coastal areas, creating and using access sites can negatively impact coastal habitats including dunes and wetlands. Building parking lots often creates or maintains impervious surfaces which can lead to increased polluted runoff into nearby waters. Etc...